



## A big blow to the young and old PFDJ

The so-called young Popular Front for Democracy and justice (YPFDJ) held its annual 7<sup>th</sup> Conference in Oslo, Norway 21 – 24 April this year. The conference was attended by senior PFDJ and Eritrean government officials who set the agenda and directed the discussions: Among them was Yemane Gebreab, head of the political affairs of the PFDJ and its chief ideologue. Yemane is together with other 10 terrorist Somali leaders regarded as a person of extra ordinary risk to the USA according to the executive order [‘13536’](#) that President Obama signed on April 12, 2010. This is related to Eritrean regime’s links through him to terrorists in Somalia. Other senior officials that attended the conference include Tesfamichael Gerahtu, Eritrea’s Ambassador to the UK; Yonas Manna, Chargé d’Affairs in the Eritrean Embassy in Scandinavia; Tekle Mengistu Head of Public on Community Affairs (reference to his particular security service role) in Scandinavia; Abraham Woldu who is the Head of the PFDJ office in Norway and the Eritrean Government representative there and Sultan Saeed, the Chairperson of the so called National Union of Eritrean Youth and Students (an affiliate of the PFDJ). The majority of the youth who attended came from Norway and other European countries. There were also hand picked members who attended from Eritrea (9) and individuals from several countries in the Middle East and Africa.

The conference discussed the strategic plan for the ypdfj 2011 – 2014. Their strategic goals and action plan revolved around those themes which were set by the mother PFDJ:

- Build a value centered organization and the values were: Love of country (patriotism); love of knowledge and critical mind; equality camaraderie and collective ownership; Commitment; Hard work; pragmatism, innovation and dynamism
- Design Procedures for Institutionalization,
- Implement *Niqhat* and skills development program
- Build strategic relations
- Ensure financial stability
- Serve Eritrea & Serving in Eritrea (*nhagern ab hagern megalal*)

Imagine these are mainly youth who are grown in Europe in democratic countries and take their directions from one the worst dictatorial regime in the world. They do not have any positive influence whatsoever. They are there to be brainwashed by senior cadres of a dictatorial regime. Imagine there is nothing on democracy, human rights, good governance, there is no criticism to the regime, there is no call for multi-party system, no call for release of prisoners who are jailed for years without trial and whose whereabouts are not known. Has something gone wrong with the education they get in Europe? They discussed in depth how to form a strong disciplined neo-nazist organization not only to support the ongoing oppression of the Eritrean people but to prolong its suffering. They also carried out military like exercises in the venue of the conferences and danced with wooden Kalashnikovs, which they have themselves photographed.



One of the conclusions of the conference was to work heavily to recruit the new young refugees that come to Europe. They also plan to hold what they call a 'massive demonstration' in Europe and the USA before the report of the UN sanctions Committee is published so as to influence its outcome. They were reminded about the legacy of the EPLF that it succeeded by keeping its secrets. To the dismay of the organisers, all the information of the conference leaked as we had secret agents who attended it. Another blow was also that 4 out of the 9 participants (Excluding Sultan Yassin)- from Eritrea, applied for asylum despite heavy restrictions not to make phone calls to relatives in Europe. This proves how bad the situation at home is for the youth in Eritrea, contrary to what these 'European youth' want us to believe.

But the worst of all was that this conference was financed by an [EU- program](#) called Youth in Action which is managed by the [Norwegian Directorate for Children, youth and Family](#), in Norway. Worse still all the tickets of those PFDJ officials was paid by the same financial support. The ideals of the program are contrary to all what the YPFDJ stands for. It seems also the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign affairs was involved as the Norwegian Ambassador in Eritrea visited the conference and met with PFDJ official there, perhaps a show of solidarity. When the Directorate was confronted by the Norwegian Broadcasting Corporation (NRK) on how EU money could be used to finance recruit young European to support dictatorships in Africa, the Head of the section stated that he was glad that this was discovered and the section will look into enlisting a lawyer to get the money back. He also added that they are going to look into the whole EU-program to see if they had earlier taken money through this program. NRK broadcasted a [series of coverings](#) on the conference. The chairwoman of the ypdfj Oslo, Semret Kidane denied any affiliation to the PFDJ but was confronted with the documents discussed during the conference, but [Shabait](#) says another thing.

They have decided to hold the 8<sup>th</sup> Conference in Sweden and so we call upon our colleagues there to start exposing them from day one.